

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MRS. ALMA LEE  
THOMPSON-LEWIS FOR HER  
DEDICATION TO SERVICE

## HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Alma Lee Thompson-Lewis. She was born in the rural town of Flora, Mississippi on September 6, 1930.

Mrs. Lewis received her early education at Good Hope Church and Christ Missionary Industrial Church School in Jackson, Mississippi. She earned her high school diploma from Camden Street School in Canton, Mississippi and Mrs. Lewis later furthered her studies at Mary Holmes College in West Point, Mississippi.

Born to Mr. Willie Lee Thompson and Mrs. Emma Deloris Cotton-Thompson, she is the eldest of four children. After the passing of both her parents in 1950, Mrs. Lewis, with the help of her grandparents, served as caregiver to her three siblings; Mrs. Lucille Thompson-Jamison, Mr. John Thompson and Mrs. Louise Thompson Eley-Sumler.

Mrs. Lewis has been a long-time community servant. She's worked many years with organizations in and around the Flora, Mississippi area. These organizations include the Magnolia Improvement Committee, The Ebony Group, Community Pride Groceries, the Madison County Civic Organization and the Order of the Eastern Star; an organization of which she is a member. She is a faithful and dedicated member of Fearn's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church where she has served as choir advisor, group captain and Sunday school teacher. Over the years, she has also been involved with many other community service projects, including serving as manager of the Magnolia Heights voting precinct.

Mrs. Lewis began to serve with the Mississippi Head Start Program as a carrier, where she used her family's station wagon to transport children to and from the Head Start Center in Flora, Mississippi. She was eventually certified to teach for the Head Start Program and finally promoted to Center Director, where she eventually retired in 1991.

She is the wife of Mr. Dan Lewis and mother to Mrs. Debra Thompson-Devine, Mr. Levi Lewis, Mr. Calvin Lewis, Mrs. Almarie Lewis-Winters, Mr. Sylvester Lewis, Emma Jean Lewis (deceased at six months of age), Mr. Howard Earl Lewis and Mrs. Sandra Lewis-Denton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Alma Lee Thompson-Lewis for her life-long dedication to service and commitment to education.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE  
DAVID CROCKETT

## HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, below is the text of a detailed report of a speech given on the floor of the House of Representatives that I believe will be of interest to my colleagues. The description was included in a book titled "Speeches on the Passage of the Bill for the Removal of the Indians," published by Perkins and Marvin in 1830. The speech was given by Rep. David Crockett of Tennessee on May 19, 1830, in opposition to the Indian Removal Act. Unfortunately, the Congress disregarded Crockett's objections and passed the bill, which was then signed into law by President Jackson.

A SKETCH OF THE REMARKS OF THE HON. DAVID CROCKETT, REPRESENTATIVE FROM TENNESSEE, ON THE BILL FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE INDIANS, MADE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1830

Mr. Crockett said, that, considering his very humble abilities, it might be expected that he should content himself with a silent vote; but, situated as he was, in relation to his colleagues, he felt it to be a duty to himself to explain the motives which governed him in the vote he should give on this bill. Gentlemen had already discussed the treaty-making power; and had done it much more ably than he could pretend to do. He should not therefore enter on that subject, but would merely make an explanation as to the reasons of his vote. He did not know whether a man (that is, a member of Congress) within 500 miles of his residence would give a similar vote; but he knew, at the same time, that he should give that vote with a clear conscience. He had his constituents to settle with, he was aware; and should like to please them as well as other gentlemen; but he had also a settlement to make at the bar of his God; and what his conscience dictated to be just and right he would do, be the consequences what they might. He believed that the people who had been kind enough to give him their suffrages, supposed him to be an honest man, or they would not have chosen him. If so, they could not but expect that he should act in the way he thought honest and right. He had always viewed the native Indian tribes of this country as a sovereign people. He believed they had been recognised as such from the very foundation of this government, and the United States were bound by treaty to protect them; it was their duty to do so. And as to giving to giving the money of the American people for the purpose of removing them in the manner proposed, he would not do it. He would do that only for which he could answer to his God. Whether he could answer it before the people was comparatively nothing, though it was a great satisfaction to him to have the approbation of his constituents.

Mr. C. said he had served for seven years in a legislative body. But from the first hour he had entered a legislative hall, he had never known what party was in legislation; and

God forbid he ever should. He went for the good of the country, and for that only. What he did as a legislator, he did conscientiously. He should love to go with his colleagues, and with the West and the South generally, if he could; but he never would let party govern him in a question of this great consequence.

He had many objections to the bill—some of them of a very serious character. One was, that he did not like to put half a million of money into the hands of the Executive, to be used in a manner which nobody could foresee, and which Congress was not to control. Another objection was, he did not wish to depart from from the foundation of the government. He considered the present application as the last alternative for these poor remnants of a once powerful people. Their only chance of aid was at the hands of Congress. Should its members turn a deaf ear to their cries, misery must be their fate. That was his candid opinion.

Mr. C. said he was often forcibly reminded of the remark made by the famous Red Jacket, in the rotundo of this building, where he was shown the panel which represented in sculpture the first landing of the Pilgrims, with an Indian chief presenting to them an ear of corn, in token of friendly welcome. The aged Indian said "that was good." The Indian said, he knew that they came from the Great Spirit, and he was willing to share the soil with his brothers from over the great water. But when he turned round to another panel representing Penn's treaty, he said "Ah! all's gone now." There was a great deal of truth in this short saying; and the present bill was a strong commentary upon it.

Mr. C. said that four counties of his district bordered on the Chickasaw country. He knew many of their tribe; and nothing should ever induce him to vote to drive them west of the Mississippi. He did not know what sort of a country it was in which they were to be settled. He would willingly appropriate money in order to send proper persons to examine the country. And when this had been done, and a fair and free treaty had been made with the tribes if they were desirous of removing, he would vote an appropriation of any sum necessary; but till this had been done, he would not vote one cent. He could not clearly understand the extent of this bill. It seemed to go to the removal of all the Indians, in any State east of the Mississippi river, in which the United States owned any land; Now, there was a considerable number of them still neglected; there was a considerable number of them in Tennessee, and the United States' government owned no land in that State, north and east of the congressional reservation line. No man could be more willing to see them remove than he was if it could be done in a manner agreeable to themselves; but not otherwise. He knew personally that a part of the tribe of the Cherokees were unwilling to go. When the proposal was made to them, they said, "No; we will take death here at our homes. Let them come and tomahawk us here at home: we are willing to die, but never to remove." He had heard them use this language. Many different constructions might be put upon this bill. One of the first things which had set him against the bill, was the letter from the secretary of war to colonel Montgomery—from which it appeared that the Indians had been intruded

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